


Wartime West Sussex 1939 – 1945 AIR RAIDS – GAS MASKS

Protection against gas attacks

Leaflet issued by the Ministry of Home Security

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WHAT TO DO ABOUT GAS

OTHER COUNTRIES LOST THEIR FREEDOM in this war because they allowed the enemy to create confusion and panic among their civilian population so that the movement of defending armies was impeded.

We are not going to allow that to happen here. It won't happen if we are all on our guard, prepared to meet anything the enemy may do.

He may use gas. **THE DANGER IS NOT SERIOUS** if you do the right thing, both **NOW** and when the time comes. If you do, this weapon will have failed and you will have helped to beat it.

Here are the things to know and do. Read them carefully and remember them well in case the day comes. Keep this leaflet and look at it again.

HOW NOT TO GET GASSED.

NOW

1. In your gas mask you have the best possible protection against gases that affect your lungs or your eyes. It is a sure defence if you use it properly and in time. Make sure your own and your children's gas masks fit and are in working order: your warden or A.R.P. post can tell you. Practise putting them on and get used to wearing them with confidence. Your life may depend on whether you can put your mask on quickly. Remember to take off your spectacles before putting on your gas mask.
2. **CARRY YOUR GAS MASK ALWAYS**, and have it handy at night.
3. To prevent the face-piece misting over, smear a little soap lightly on the inside once a week.
4. If your chemist has "No. 2 Anti-gas ointment" (price 6d.) in stock, buy a jar. Read the instructions on the jar and carry it always. This ointment is for use as a protection against the effects of liquid blister gas.

IF THE GAS RATTLES SOUND.

1. **PUT ON YOUR GAS MASK AT ONCE**, wherever you are, even in bed.
2. **TAKE COVER.** Get into any nearby building as soon as you hear the rattle. Go upstairs if the building is a tall one. Close all windows in your house.

Don't come out or take your gas mask off till you hear the handbells ringing the "Gas clear".

NEVER LOOK UPWARDS—you may get a drop of liquid gas in your eyes.

COVER YOUR SKIN UP so long as you are out of doors—hands in pockets, collar turned up. Or if you have an umbrella, put it up.

IF YOU DO GET GASSED.

GAS OR VAPOUR. If you breathe any gas or vapour—

1. **PUT ON YOUR GAS MASK AT ONCE.**
2. **KEEP YOUR MASK ON**, even though you may still feel some discomfort.



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3. If the irritation is serious and does not stop after a time, apply to the nearest A.R.P. warden or member of a First Aid Party.

LIQUID BLISTER GAS. If you are splashed with liquid gas from a bomb, and you can see the dark splash on your skin or clothing you must act as follows:—

SKIN.

(a) Dab, **NOT** wipe, as much of the liquid off your skin as you can with your handkerchief; then rub "No. 2 Anti-gas ointment" well into the place. Don't forget your handkerchief has become very dangerous—destroy it.

(b) If you haven't the ointment by you, go to the nearest chemist's shop, where you will find bleach cream and be told how to use it.

(c) Ointment or cream should be put on within **FIVE MINUTES** of your being splashed. If this is impossible, wash at once with soap and water, preferably warm—this may save you a bad burn.

CLOTHING.

(a) Take off any splashed outer garment **AT ONCE**, before the liquid soaks right through to the skin—seconds count.

(b) If you are within five minutes of your home or any private house or other place where you know you can get a wash, go there and wash yourself. Before going in, take off your shoes and *any* clothing which you think the liquid has splashed—your health matters more than your feelings.

(c) If you can't get to such a place within five minutes ask the wardens or police what to do. They will know where the public cleansing centres are.



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KEEP YOUR FOOD SAFE FROM GAS

1. Poison gases will not always affect even exposed foods to such an extent that they become dangerous for human consumption, but in any case very simple precautions will protect your food entirely.

2. Food in cans or airtight bottles is perfectly safe, and flour, rice, tea, butter, etc., should be kept in tins or jars with well-fitting lids. Refrigerators are very good protection. Perishable foods would be safe in them, or in a gas-proof room. Store all your tins and jars in cupboards or in places where they cannot be splashed by liquid gas.

3. If there is any risk that your food or water may have been contaminated, on no account attempt to deal with them yourself. Notify the police or an air raid warden. Your local authority will give expert advice and treatment.

WE CAN BEAT GAS ATTACKS
—if we know what to do, and do it.